

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
WARREN GRANT MAGNUSON CLINICAL CENTER
NURSING AND PATIENT CARE SERVICES

POLICY: PARTICULATE RESPIRATOR Mask (PR, N-95 or PAPR) AND PATIENT CARE ASSIGNMENTS

The Nurse manager or designee is responsible for alternative assignments of patient care for staff who are unable to use a Particulate Respirator mask (PR, N-95 or PAPR), or who are not medically cleared by Occupational Medical Services (OMS) to wear the particulate respirator mask.

PURPOSE: To ensure appropriate allocation of staffing resources for patient care needs.

ADDENDUM

REFERENCES:

1. Medical Administrative Policy (# M93-8): Use of Particulate Respirator Masks to Reduce Airborne Transmission of Infectious Organisms in the Clinical Center
2. Nursing Administrative Policy: Administrative Responsibility and Coverage for Nursing Department
3. Allocation and Assignment of Nurse Staffing Resources (Cross Service)
4. Occupational Medical Services (OMS)
5. Hospital Epidemiology Service (HES)
6. Environmental Safety Officer

Approved:

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Chief, Nursing and Patient Care Services

Formulated: 9/93
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Revised: 7/95, 6/99, 05/01, 10/03

NURSshare: Policies

Addendum to Policy: Particulate Respirator (PR) Mask (PR, N-95 or PAPR) and Patient Care Assignments

- 1) The Particulate Respirator Mask (PR, N-95 or PAPR) is to be used, after collaboration with Hospital Epidemiology Service and/or the Environmental Safety Officer and/or Pharmacy Department, in situations where transmission of infectious agents and/or drug therapy may be harmful to the health care worker, i.e., suspected TB or Ribavirin.
- 2) In compliance with federal guidelines (CDC, 10/28/94), staff must be educated and trained by knowledgeable staff (e.g., Environmental Safety Officer, Infection Control Specialist) in the use of PR, and medically cleared prior to use of the PR. Contact Hospital Epidemiology Service (HES) or the Environmental Safety Officer for assistance.
- 3) PARTICULATE RESPIRATOR MASK (PR, N-95) OR POWERED AIR PURIFYING RESPIRATOR (PAPR) is required for all persons entering the room. Training is needed prior to using particulate respirator masks; call CC Environmental Safety Officer at 6-5281 or through the signal page operator at 6-4567 if training is needed or for questions about current recommendations for respiratory protection. Particulate respirator masks (PR, N-95) are dedicated to individual health care workers and should be fit-checked before each use. Particulate respirator masks may be reused unless (1) the health care worker is unable to achieve a facial seal, (2) the mask is soiled with blood or other potentially infectious materials, or (3) the integrity of the mask damaged.

Powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) hoods are dedicated to individual health care workers, and may be reused unless the hood is soiled with blood or other potentially infectious materials or the integrity of the hood is damaged. Powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) motor units are reusable per Universal Precautions

- 4) The Nurse Manager or designee is responsible for maintaining a list of staff who are educated and trained in the use of, and medically cleared to wear, the particulate respirators. In addition, the Environmental Safety Officer maintains a list of staff who are educated and trained in the use of, and medically cleared to wear the N-95; the Hospital Epidemiology Service maintains a list of staff who are educated and trained in the use of, and medically cleared to wear the PAPR.
- 5) In the event that a patient requiring level 3 respiratory isolation is identified on a unit without staff who are trained in particulate respirators the following actions should be taken:
 - a. isolate the patient in a room without roommates (a non-negative flow room may be used initially;
 - b. contact the operator to page the HES officer on call for instructions on how to immediately obtain PAPR respirators; and
 - c. refer to the isolation flip chart for specific instructions on care of the patient.